

Gun Control Speech

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First, I want to thank you for holding the normal legislative process in public on this subject. Unlike, the other state legislators, who meet in private with no public input and just passed the legislation.

This legislation is the result of the terrible incident at Newtown. If Adam Lanza had used a high powered car like a Corvette, Jaguar, Mustang or Dodge Charger to run down the children, then would the legislation be banning cars with greater than 200 horsepower and pushing engine displacement limits? There are other ways without the use of firearms that he could have committed his evil act. I think the real issue of mental health would be addressed. I have talked with medical professionals in mental health care and what they said is disturbing. Too often the care is "Treat them and street them". New York City recently had a person with a mental health issue pushed a man to his death in front of a subway train. She had stopped taking her medicine and her family reported it to the police. Nothing was done. What we need is behavior control for the people with violent tendencies.

As a citizen, I welcome the additional background checks. They will help to reduce the transfers of weapons to those with medical problems. The medical providers and schools need to identify those with violent tendencies to make those background checks effective. Both Adam Lanza and James Holmes (Colorado movie shooter) had shown signs of mental health disease while in school and nothing was done.

The FBI has reported "assault" weapons are only used in one tenth of one percent of the violent criminal acts. This legislation is to give the appearance of doing something. The present laws need to be enforced. On the state capitol building are the statues of the five founders of Connecticut. Four of the five are carrying weapons. If they appear as dressed as shown on the statues on the streets of Hartford today, they would be arrested on weapon charges. There are laws to protect the public.

If a high capacity magazine ban is implemented the magazine capacity should be limited to ten (10) rounds. There are many firearms that have greater than seven round magazines that are obsolete and smaller capacity magazines are not available. A good example is the world war II M1 Garand rifle. It has an eight round magazine. This rifle is commonly used to give a twenty one gun salute to World War II veterans at their funerals. Another is the British SMLE rifle with a ten round magazine, a common collector rifle. There are numerous target pistols with ten round magazine. None of these firearms meet the current State of Connecticut assault weapon definition.

If the legislators do decide that the people need to be disarmed then please including in the laws specific punishment for those criminals who use them to commit crimes. For example, if there is a specific banned item, then there should be a mandatory twenty year prison sentence for having the ban item while committing a violent crime. A mental deficiency should not be a mitigating factor. The legislation has decided these items are weapons of mass destruction. The criminal using them has decided to harm as many as possible.

All citizens need to be treated equally including the private firms and corporations. Unless they have valid federal firearms manufacturing licenses, they should not these items. If these items cannot be

used by the citizens for their security then the items are not valid for the security of private firms and corporations.

Last, if specific items are banned and must be surrendered to the state, then the people need to be compensated for their loss. The items were purchased legally and are private property that the state has decided to seize. Otherwise without compensation for the items, the owners as a group, which are innocent of any crime, are being punished for the evil deed of a one man. Additionally, many people will decide not to surrender them because of the economic loss. You will turn many good citizens without violent tendencies into criminals. Thank you for time and attention.